

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman
and Members
Of the Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

HB 1400 – Cannabis Legalization, Taxation and Regulation--OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members,

I strongly oppose HB 1400 – Cannabis Legalization, Taxation and Regulation. A 2019 article in the Hillsdale College *Imprimis* provided information on the connection between marijuana use, mental illness and violent behavior that escalates with continued use, particularly in young people whose brains are still developing. A copy of this article has been e-mailed to each member of this Committee. A new study from Duke University reports that marijuana use among males appears to alter sperm prior to mating, causing an effect on the brain of their children that “closely resembled changes evident in human babies exposed as fetuses to known neurotoxins such as pesticides and tobacco smoke.” Study appeared on-line Feb. 20 in the journal *Toxicological Sciences*. It was reported in *The Marijuana Report* on March 4, 2020.

Why would anyone want to increase marijuana use???? We still have a severe opioid problem with large numbers of people losing their lives every year to drugs. Marijuana is a gateway drug to more powerful and deadly drug addiction for many people. Calling it Cannabis doesn't make it less harmful. Making marijuana legal will increase the number of young children who will become users. Today's teens and young adults will say it is legal, so it is o.k. Legalization makes use more acceptable. It is an official approval. Any tax dollars Maryland would make from this evil is not worth it. Please give HB 1400 an Unfavorable Report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
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